

A photograph of a forest stream with a bird perched on a branch in the foreground. The stream flows over rocks, surrounded by lush green vegetation and trees. The bird is perched on a branch in the foreground, looking towards the stream. The overall scene is a dense, green forest.

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Nature Conservancy

The Many Faces of the Texas Hill Country
Venezuela's Extraordinary Oilbirds

A report on Conservancy actions and accomplishments



High Creek wetland, Colorado, where the Conservancy plans to purchase 1,000 peat-rich acres.

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ARIZONA

Going with the flow

The issuance of an instream water-rights certificate to The Nature's Conservancy's Arizona office culminates an 11-year application process and marks the first time such a permission has been granted to a private interest for wildlife and recreational use.

Now, with legal property rights over almost 720 acre-feet of Ramsey Creek's flow, Conservancy land stewards can better ensure the survival of species at Ramsey Canyon Preserve, located on the eastern flank of the Huachuca Mountains in southeastern Arizona. The moist cool canyon is summer sanctuary for the United States' highest concentration of hummingbirds—14 species in all—as well as home to the lemon lily (*Lilium parryi*), Sanborn's long-nosed bat, the Ramsey Canyon leopard frog, and four other globally rare species.

Last year, more than 30,000 visitors from all over the world enjoyed the Ramsey Canyon oasis and its abundant wildlife—particularly the hummingbirds. One species, the bluetheated, nests only in the trees overhanging Ramsey Creek. In addition, more than 150 other birds find refuge here.

CALIFORNIA

Conservancy joins forces with Park Service

Anchored 25 miles off the coast of Santa Barbara, California's Channel Islands National Park embraces approximately 250,000 acres, half of which lie beneath the ocean's surface. The park's lands and waters are enriched by a confluence of tropical and Alaskan currents that produces a remarkable range of natural habitats and no fewer than 65 plant species occurring nowhere else in the world.

Park boundaries take in the last vestiges of North America's "Mediterranean" plant communities, 14,000-year-old calcified fragments of fossil forests, pristine tidal pools teeming with east-Pacific coastal species, and offshore forests of giant kelp that shelter more than 1,000 marine organisms. In addition, the California brown pelican claims the Channel Islands as its only known U.S. breeding ground, and gray whales plow surrounding waters during winter migrations.

A management agreement struck between the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy clears the way for cooperative monitoring, restoration, research, and management throughout the Channel Islands National Park. The partnership will focus on minimizing human impacts on areas of critical biological and scientific value. The Conservancy owns and manages 54,500 acres on Santa Cruz, the largest of the Channel Islands.